

**Jeffrey L. Gould, Distinguished Visiting Professor**  
**School of Historical Studies**  
**Activities for the 2022–23 Academic Year**

Jeffrey Gould's career has focused on 20<sup>th</sup> century social, political, and ethnic conflict in Central America. After publishing four monographs on the discourses, mobilizations and repressions of workers and peasants, he shifted his research focus towards the Southern Cone and the themes of subaltern social experiments and autogestion. During the 2022–23 academic year, he undertook research on workers' participation and control of industries in Chile during the Allende period, 1970–1973. He also began research on the largest sugar and coffee cooperative in Costa Rica, originally founded by producers on land expropriated from German owners in World War II. The Costa Rican study examines the conflict between the producers, their representatives, and laborers in which two notions of cooperatives, rights and interests clashed in dramatic fashion.

These research efforts derive from a prior project that culminated in his fifth monograph, *Entre el Bosque y Los Arboles: Utopías Menores en El Salvador y Uruguay*, (Editorial Universidad de Guadalajara, 2020), a study of subaltern social experiments, which, following Jay Winter, Gould categorized as “minor utopias” that emerged in moments of mobilization and conflict. He presented a paper to the School of Historical Studies, “Work, Time and Memory in Minor Utopias: Latin American Case Studies” (September 26, 2022) that summarized this monograph and charted new areas for research. On February 1, 2023, he presented a revised and abbreviated version of the talk to his Modern History Seminar.

The Modern History Seminar involved members from the School of Historical Studies—Emily Baum, Vincent Gayon, Nana Osei-Opore, Susan Pennybacker, Pamela Potter, Ali Raza, Judith Surkis, Alicia Timberlake as well as Catalina Muñoz and K-Sue Park from the School of Social Sciences. These scholars presented their on-going research on legal conflicts over the offspring of Algerian-French mixed marriage; the political roots of mass, sectarian violence during the Partition of India in 1947; London as a node of anti-colonial dissent; the use of history workshops in the Colombian peace process; and homesteading, housing policy and racism in the U.S. These talks were augmented by presentations from several outside scholars: John Bodnar (Indiana University), Greg Grandin (Yale), Amy Offner (University of Pennsylvania), and Barbara Weinstein (NYU).

Gould presented a paper “Entre el Documental y la Historia: Un Encuentro Difícil” in the seminar, “Narrativas Orales Como Historia,” at the Instituto de Historia de Nicaragua y Centroamérica, Universidad Centroamericana, Managua (September 4, 2022). At the University of Pennsylvania, he participated in a graduate seminar organized around his first book, *To Lead as Equals: Rural Protest and Political Consciousness in Chinandega, Nicaragua 1912–1979* (UNC Press, 1990). On February 21, 2023, in San Salvador, he participated in a presentation of his book *Solidaridad Bajo Asedio: El Movimiento Obrero Salvadoreño entre el Cielo y el Infierno, 1970-1990*, (UNAM-Mexico 2021).

Gould continues to work with graduate students at Indiana University, where he retired as a Distinguished Professor in May 2022. He currently supervises four doctoral students and serves on three other doctoral committees.

With David Díaz, he published “A Path Not Taken: An Historical Interpretation of the Roots of Contemporary Crime in Central America,” *Brown Journal of World Affairs* (Winter 2023). Díaz and he additionally published *Nicaragua Distópica* in *Contexto Media* (Colombia, April 18, 2023).

His chapter with Heather Vrana, “El Salvador: Reform or Repression” was accepted by Cambridge University Press for inclusion in *Coups d’état in Cold War Latin America, 1964–1979*, edited by Sebastián Carassai and Kevin Coleman.

Gould is committed to disseminating his research to nonacademic audiences through podcasts and films. He participated in two podcasts, hosted by *The Nation* correspondent, Jeet Heer: “Central America’s Stalled Progress” (February 15, 2023) and “The State of the Left in Chile, Nicaragua and El Salvador” (June 28, 2023).

Gould’s other contributions to the global public sphere consist of his work as a filmmaker. His first film, *Scars of Memory* (2003 – with Carlos Henriquez Consalvi) offers an account of the 1932 massacre of some 10,000 Salvadorans. His second film, *La Palabra en el Bosque* (2011 – with Consalvi) narrates the origins of the Christian Base Communities and the Salvadoran Civil War. He has screened those films at over forty universities in the United States and Latin America and at eleven film festivals (winning several awards). In 2019, he directed and produced *Port Triumph*. Based on union archives and interviews with former packinghouse workers and shrimp fishermen, the film treats the gendered labor mobilization and triumphs of the 1970s, the repression of 1980 and 1981, and the discord within the movement that characterized the 1980s. It offers a unique analysis of the triumph of neoliberalism in El Salvador. He presented the film at Wolfensohn Hall on October 20, 2022. He also screened the film and participated in discussions at the University of Chicago (May 2022-virtually) and at the University of Pennsylvania (March 22, 2023).

This year, he worked on an historical fiction film series, entitled *Dawn to Despair*, rooted in archival and oral historical sources. The pilot episode premiered at Wolfensohn Hall (April 13, 2023). This fictionalized history portrays the early Costa Rican labor and communist movements in the 1930s. The film series follows the high-tension wire linking family life to political commitment during the polarizing decades of the Cold War in Central America. Three other episodes also written and researched this year by Gould take the intergenerational story of political commitment and family alienation through the 1950s.

Gould also serves on the advisory board of the Museo de la Palabra y la Imágen (San Salvador) and on the advisory board of Editorial CIHAC (Costa Rica).